(d) to (f) The attempt to disrupt the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service by terrorist outfits has been condemned at the highest level by the Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan in a Joint Statement issued on the conclusion of the visit of President of Pakistan to New Delhi from April 16 to 18, 2005. The two leaders also pledged that they would not allow terrorism to impede the peace process.

(g) The measures taken include necessary safeguards to keep the particulars of passengers confidential, further activating of intelligence network to collect timely inputs to foil evil designs of terrorists and continued vigil in this regard.

Financial assistance for craftsmen and weavers

†*565. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have fixed any target for providing financial assistance under the self employment credit card scheme for craftsmen and weavers;

(b) if so, the number of craftsmen and weavers benefited so far under this scheme; and

(c) the year-wise and State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) A target for issuance of one lakh Artisan Credit Cards (ACCs) has been fixed to smoothen credit flow to handicrafts artisans through banks, Handloom weavers are covered under Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC) scheme covering other vocations as well; and a specific target for weavers has not been fixed.

(b) and (c) As reported by Banks, the number of artisans covered under ACC in the country is 16,500 during 2003-04 and 8,222 during 2004-05. State-wise details are not available. Regarding coverage of handloom weavers under SCC, NABARD does not have the details; it has only the details of the total coverage under SCC.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.